

Distorted

Follow The Crowd (Week 2)

LifeNotes

TALK IT OVER

Main Idea

Jesus desires faithfulness over following the crowd.

Key Scriptures

Even after Jesus had performed so many signs in their presence, they still would not believe in him..... Yet at the same time many even among the leaders believed in him. But because of the Pharisees they would not openly acknowledge their faith for fear they would be put out of the synagogue; for they loved human praise more than praise from God. John 12:37, 42-43.

From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him. "You do not want to leave too, do you?" Jesus asked the Twelve. Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God." John 6:66-69

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14

Why do we follow the crowd?

1. Fear of rejection
2. Fear of conflict
3. Fear of diversity

What does it look like to be faithful?

1. We're comfortable in our own skin.
2. We kindly lean into conflict.
3. We embrace those who are different.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

We buy stuff we don't need with money we don't have to impress people we don't like.

– Dave Ramsey

Start talking.

- What is the most embarrassing thing that has ever happened to you?
- Have you ever bought something for the sole purpose of impressing others?
- Of the fears discussed, which one do you struggle with the most?

Start thinking.

- Are there other fears we possess that cause the crowd to have so much power in our lives?
- Read Romans 5:6-8. Why was Jesus so consistent in his ability to be faithful, rather than following the actions and intentions of the crowd?
- Pastor Ryan mentioned that we all have a tendency to fear those that are different than us. Do you agree? Why or why not?

Start sharing.

- If you weren't scared of rejection or conflict, how would you act differently? Who would you share Jesus with?
- What does it look like to kindly lean into conflict?

Start doing.

- Name one or two subconscious ways that you struggle with the fear of rejection, conflict, and diversity.
- What are some action steps that God is calling you into as you faithfully follow Him instead of the crowd?

Closing prayer.

Jesus, I praise you, because you are faithful, even when I am not. You chose faithfulness to your Father, rather than following the whims and desires of the crowd. Because of your faithful and gracious sacrifice, we are made right before the Father. Please help me to care more about your glory than I do about the opinions of others. Help me to live a faithful life. Show me where I am living in fear. As you help me to be faithful, I pray that you would enable me to be a faithful friend to others.